

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 EB-07 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1145

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RONE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17952

GENEVA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY; DEPARTMENT FOR UNDER-
SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY, IS, EG

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: POSSIBLE ARAB/UN INITIATIVE;
STATUS OF PRESENT DISCUSSIONS; AID TO EGYPT

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH SENIOR QUAI OFFICIALS DURING
SECRETARY'S VISIT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON RE-
CEIVED BRIEFING FROM FRENCH ON EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS
DISCUSSION OF COLLECTIVE DEMARCHE AGAINST POSSIBLE ARAB
INITIATIVE AGAINST ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN UN AND REVIEWED
GENERAL STATE OF PRESENT US/ME EFFORTS. FRENCH ASKED
ABOUT AID TO EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING WITH ATHERTON QUAI DIRECTOR FOR
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POLITICAL AFFAIRS DE LABOULAYE BRIEFED ATHERTON AND

OTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSION EARLIER THIS WEEK OF POSSIBLE ARAB INITIATIVE AGAINST ISRAELI UN MEMBERSHIP. LABOULAYE STATED EC-9 DIRECTORS AGREED JULY 7 TO MAKE DEMARCHE IN CAIRO THROUGH ITALIANS, PRIOR TO FORTHCOMING ARAB-AFRICAN MEETINGS. EC-9 GROUP ALSO AGREED TO INFORM ISRAELIS OF THIS INITIATIVE AND CONVEY WARNING THAT ISRAEL NEGOTIATING INTRANSIGENCE COULD CAUSE RUMORED ARAB PROJECT TO BE PUSHED THROUGH TO COMPLETION.

2. LABOULAYE STATED THAT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD IN FACT ALREADY MADE DEMARCHE IN CAIRO ON OWN INITIATIVE ALONG THESE LINES AND WAS BEING INSTRUCTED TO GO BACK TO EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO STRESS THAT HE WAS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK COLLECTIVELY FOR EC-9. EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO INITIAL ITALIAN PRESENTATION WAS THAT TIME WAS NOT NOW RIPE FOR ANY EXPULSION INITIATIVE AGAINST ISRAEL.

3. LABOULAYE, WHILE APPROVING EC-9 JOINT DEMARCHE TO EGYPT, EXPRESSED FRENCH DISAPPROVAL OF INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVES ALONG SAME LIME. HE BELIEVED INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES WOULD NOT ADD TO EFFECTIVENESS OF COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND CONSIDERED THAT THEY WOULD SERVE ONLY TO INDICATE WESTERN FEARS AND CONSEQUENTLY THAT WEST WAS PREPARED TO PAY A PRICE TO AVOID ANY ARAB EXPULSION INITIATIVE.

4. ATHERTON NOTED THAT USG HAD WARNED SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADAM ON SUBJECT IN STRONG TERMS DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT. QUAI'S NEAR EAST DIRECTOR CERLES ADDED THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ALSO MADE STRONG PRESENTATION TO KHADAM ON SAME SUBJECT INCLUDING A SPECIFIC THREAT OF FRENCH VETO IN UNSC. KHADAM HAD RESPONDED THAT ARABS WOULD ONLY PURSUE EXPULSION PATH IF OTHER PEACE EFFORTS WERE DEAD LOCKED. KHADAM HAD INDICATED TO FRENCH THAT RENEWED WAR WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PRESENTLY A VIABLE OPTION, AND THEREFORE A UN EXPULSION INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EVENT OF A DEADLOCK.

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5. ATHERTON THEN, AT REQUEST OF FRENCH OFFICIALS, BRIEFED IN GENERAL TERMS ON PRESENT STATE OF US. EXPLORATIONS OF FURTHER INTERIM AGREEMENT POSSIBILITIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. HE POINTED OUT THAT USG EXPLORATIONS STILL PROCEEDING AND WE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER INTERIM AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT NEWSPAPER OPTIMISM OF LAST SEVERAL DAYS WAS UNFOUNDED.

6. LABOULAYE NOTED THAT IN ROME MEETING EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSED "CONSORTIUM" APPROACH FOR AID TO EGYPT BUT SAID POLITICAL DIRECTORS WERE NOT CLEAR WHAT USG HOPED THE NINE WOULD DO AND WHAT CONDITIONS USG BELIEVED COULD USEFULLY BE ATTACHED TO EUROPEAN AID TO EGYPT. ATHERTON RESPONDED THAT UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON WAS COORDINATING THIS SUBJECT AND WOULD BE IN POSITION TO DISCUSS IT IN DETAIL DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO OECD/XCSS JULY 18.
RUSH

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